

Ocotillo

Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District



Councilmember Norma Alvarez

July 13, 2012



Glendale Glitters Chosen 'Best Kid Event' by AZCentral.com.

No one does holiday magic for children year after year like Glendale Glitters, as is evidenced by the event recently being named the 2012 Critics' Choice Winner for Best Kid Event by azcentral.com.

Coming up on its nineteenth year, Glendale Glitters has long been a favorite among Valley residents, with 1.5 million lights covering more than 16 blocks in Historic Downtown Glendale. Budget-friendly and family-oriented, the holiday lighting season has grown to attract more than 275,000 annually, between Thanksgiving weekend and mid-January.

Popular activities that children and families enjoy at the event include a snow field, horse-drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa Claus, make-and-take crafts, a petting zoo and an abundance of inflatables and rides.

To learn more, visit www.glendaleaz.com/events.

Sales Tax Initiative Petitions Rejected. On Thursday, the Glendale City Clerk's Office rejected the initiative petitions seeking to amend the City Charter provision related to the city's transaction privilege (sales) tax levy. The proponents of this ballot initiative contend that it would reverse the City Council's June 12th decision to enact a temporary sales tax increase. The city found that the initiative effort failed to comply with several critical aspects of the state statutes pertaining to initiative petitions. Most importantly, the description of the initiative text that appeared on all of the petitions was inaccurate and misleading to the voters who signed the petitions.

For information about the Temporary Sales Tax Increase and how it will work, please visit www.glendaleaz.com.

G.R.A.S.P. Provides Safe, Social After School Program. The new session of the Glendale Recreation After School Program (G.R.A.S.P.) begins with the start of school and provides children, ages 5-13, with a safe, fun place to go right after school. Those that register for G.R.A.S.P. by July 27 will get \$10 off the one-time registration fee.

The program is based at licensed recreation sites, offering children various activities such as arts and crafts, homework help, board games, group games and educational projects, featuring special guests such as D.A.R.E. police officers and environmental professionals. The focus of G.R.A.S.P. is the total well being of each and every child, while the children experience the benefits of a fun, safe and social environment with positive mentorship from caring, adult staff.

G.R.A.S.P. is licensed and regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services, and qualifies for Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) assistance. Those interested should contact their DES caseworker.

G.R.A.S.P. is available at nine locations:

- Glendale Community Center, 5401 W. Ocotillo Rd., Ocotillo District
- O'Neil Recreation Center, 6448 W. Missouri Ave., Ocotillo District
- Desert Mirage Elem. School, 8605 W. Maryland Ave.
- Desert Palms Elem. School, 11441 North 55th Avenue
- Sahuaro Ranch Elem. School, 10401 N. 63rd Ave.
- Canyon Elem. School, 5490 W. Paradise Ln.
- Kachina Elem. School, 5304 W. Crocus Dr.
- Pioneer Elem. School, 6305 W. Port Au Prince Ln.
- Rose Lane Recreation Center, 5003 W. Marlette Ave.

All the locations provide the after-school option and are also available during early release days. Select locations are available before school and during extended school breaks. Daily or weekly rates are available and vary depending on Glendale residency and program options. Preregistration is required. For details about registration and rates, [click here](#) or call 623-930-2046.

Scalding Injury Prevention Tips from the Glendale Fire Department. In the wake of a two-year-old boy receiving 2nd degree burns to almost 20% of his body recently after spilling hot soup on himself, the Glendale Fire Department wants to provide important tips on scald injury prevention .

Scald injuries impact all ages but young children and the elderly are most vulnerable. Most burns occur in the home, usually in the kitchen or bathroom. Scalds can be prevented through increased awareness of scald hazards and by making simple environmental or behavioral changes.

The Glendale Fire Department encourages residents to take these steps to ensure their home is safe and to prevent a scalding injury, which occurs when hot liquid, hot food or steam damages one or more layers of skin:

- Set water heater at lowest level. Water temp should never rise above 120°F in residences and 110°F in nursing homes/day cares
- Always establish a “kid-safe” zone in the kitchen, keep all children at least three feet from any cooking appliance
- Use the back burners when possible
- Turn pot/pan handles toward back of stove
- Avoid using table cloths. Children can use these to pull hot object down on them.
- DO NOT warm baby bottles in the microwave
- DO NOT hold a child while cooking or carrying a hot beverage

Glendale Libraries Have Spaces Available for Gatherings. Have a party, business seminar, outdoor concert or small wedding at a Glendale Public Library. Two of the Glendale libraries are opening their doors to rental opportunities for the public.

The Glendale Main Library at 5959 W. Brown St. offers both indoor and outdoor spaces for rent. The indoor opportunities include a small and large meeting room and an auditorium complete with a stage and fixed, tiered seating. The entire meeting room wing, which includes access to the restrooms and southeast portion of the lobby, may also be rented. The outdoor opportunities include a small xeriscape garden on the library’s south side and the front lawn with the award-winning garden north of the building.

The Foothills Branch Library at 19055 N. 57th Ave. offers indoor spaces with a variety of options including both classroom-style setups and a large, multi-purpose room.

For details, [click here](#) or call the Main Library at 623-930-3561 or the Foothills Branch Library at 623-930-3849.

Around Town

Glendale’s YouTube Channel Trending Videos

[Glendale Historical Society](#)

[Christmas in July - July 21](#)

Skate Court Closure – July 18. The Foothills Sk8 Court, located at 55th Ave. and Union Hills Dr., will be closed on July 18, 2012 for maintenance. [Click here](#) for more information about the Skate Court.

Santa’s Coming Early for Christmas in July - July 21! Santa is stopping by for our annual Christmas in July in Historic Downtown Glendale on Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will enjoy a fun-filled day of holiday crafts, sweet treats and exclusive deals in Historic Downtown Glendale, while having the opportunity to give back during a special Back to School charity drive. [Click here](#) for more information.

Kids Get Fit Adventure Program. Get fit and have fun at the same time! Kids ages 9-12 will participate in activities such as climbing the rock wall, basketball, obstacle courses and team challenges. These recreational-based activities will challenge all participants. Attendees will need to bring a personal water bottle, wear comfortable workout attire and closed-toe/heel tennis shoes; no jeans or dresses.

Join us from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday, July 23-Wednesday, July 25 at Foothills Recreation & Aquatics Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Dr. The cost is \$25 (or \$32 for Non-residents). To sign up, call 623-930-4600. For more information, call 623-930-4610.

Capture the Flag! Beat the summer heat at this massive water fight. Two teams will compete to capture the flag and reign supreme. Join us from 4-5 p.m., Monday, July 16, Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St. Dress to get wet. Bring your own water gun or one will be provided. This event is for ages 8-11 only. For more information on this free program, call 623-930-3537.

Spanish Language Green Living Class. On August 11, Glendale’s Conservation and Sustainable Living Program will offer its green living class in Spanish. Come and learn how to reduce home energy and water use at 6 p.m., August 11 at O’Neil Recreation Center, 6448 W. Missouri Ave. [Click here](#) for more information.

Contact Councilmember Alvarez

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